Claims:

1.   A method of configuring a plurality of computer entities into a group, in which each said computer entity operates to provide its functionality to the group, each said computer entity comprising:

at least one data processor;

a data storage device;

a network connection for communicating with other said computer entities of the group;

said method comprising the steps of:

assigning one of said plurality of computer entities to be a master computer entity, from which at least one other said computer entity is configured by said master computer entity;

assigning at least one said computer entity to be a slave computer entity, which applies configuration settings set by said master computer entity;

setting at least one configuration setting to be a same value on each of said computer entities, such that each of said plurality of computer entities is capable of providing an equivalent functionality to a user as each other one of said computer entities of said plurality.

2.   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of computer entities is loaded with an application; and

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said step of setting a plurality of configuration settings comprises setting a plurality of application settings to a common value across each of said plurality of computer entities.

3.   The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further comprising the step of:

entering at least one said setting data via a web interface.

4.   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a said master computer entity comprises a database storing a plurality of said configuration settings.

5.   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a said master computer entity stores a database containing a list of a plurality of said computer entities within a group.

6.   The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a said configuration setting is selected from the set:

a schedule setting;

a retention setting;

an exclude setting;

an authorised right setting;

a limit setting;

a quota setting;

a data file definition setting;

a log critical file data.

7.   The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

viewing a list of computer entities at a management console;

adding a selected computer entity to an existing group of computer entities by manipulating icons contained in said view display.

8.   The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

viewing a list of computer entities at a management console display view;

removing a selected computer entity from a group of computer entities by manipulating one or more icons within said display view.

9.   A method of configuring a plurality of computer entities into a plurality of groups, in which, in each group, a said computer entity operates to provide it's functionality to that group, each said computer entity comprising:

at least one data processor;

at least one data storage device;

a network connection for communicating with other said computer entities in a same group;

said method comprising the steps of:

assigning a said computer entity to be a master computer entity of a corresponding respective group;

assigning at least one other said computer entity to be a slave computer entity within said group;

5   said master computer entity applying at least one configuration setting to a said corresponding respective slave computer entity in said same group, to set said slave computer entity is to provide an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity.

10   10.   The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said master computer entity of said group operates as a slave computer entity for a further group.

11.   The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said slave computer entity of said group operates as a slave computer entity in a second group.

15   SUBAR7   12.   The method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein each said computer entity comprises a headless computer entity.

13.   The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of:

20   checking whether a said slave computer entity has a same security mode setting as said master computer entity.

14.   The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of:

25   checking whether a said slave computer entity has a same security mode setting as said master computer entity; and

if said slave computer entity does not have a same security mode setting as 30   said master computer entity, then rejecting assigning of said slave computer entity to be a slave computer entity within said group.

15. The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of:

if a said slave computer entity is rejected as being assigned to be a slave computer entity within said group, then displaying an error message.

16. The method as claimed in claim 9, comprising the step of:

checking that a said slave computer entity is configured to be in same domain as said master computer entity.

17. The method as claimed in claim 9, comprising the step of:

checking that a said slave computer entity is configured to be in same domain as said master computer entity; and

if said slave computer entity is not configured to be in a same domain as said master computer entity, then rejecting said slave computer entity from said group.

18. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

if said master computer entity is using DHCP configuration, then said master computer entity checking whether it can use a UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to a said slave computer entity by name.

19. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

if said slave computer entity is using DHCP configuration, then said slave computer entity checking that it can use a UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to said master computer entity by name.

20.   A set of components for connecting a group of headless computer entities into a group of computer entities having a common set of configuration settings, said component set comprising:

5   a master configuration component for converting a first headless computer entity into a master computer entity to control a group of computer entities;

          a slave configuration component for controlling a second computer entity to act as a slave computer entity within said group;

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          wherein said master configuration component comprises a set of converters for converting configuration settings received from a control application into a set of Application Procedure Instruction procedure calls; and

15   said slave configuration application comprises a set of converters for converting received Application Procedure Instructions into a set of configuration settings readable by a client application resident on said slave computer entity.

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